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Leaders, Celebrities, Come Together to Thank Staff

By Bernard S. Little
WRNMMC Journal
staff writer

"Thank you for what you do," was the expression of gratitude repeated throughout the day, as staff members at Walter Reed Bethesda and Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) were saluted during Staff Appreciation Day on Friday.

The day of fun in the sun brought wounded warriors, patients, service members, civilian employees, contractors, volunteers and their families out for music, food, games, arts and crafts and other activities.

To the delight of the crowd, skydivers with an American flag and those of all of the military branches, glided in on the festivities, held on the base helipad and adjacent areas. British celebrity chef Robert Irvine and his staff prepared food for the event, and the highlight of the day was a performance by actor Gary Sinise's Lt. Dan Band.

The most solemn part of the day came when members of the New York City Fire Department (FDNY) turned over to Walter Reed Bethesda, a "treasured" piece of steel which came from one of the World Trade Center Towers struck during the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks on the nation.

Welcoming the crowd to the event, Navy Capt. Frederick "Fritz" Kass, NSAB commanding officer, said since the integration of Walter Reed Army Medical Center and National Naval Medical Center to form Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), there have been more than 4,000 events on and off base. "Many of those were sponsored by various benevolent organizations, and almost all of them targeted at the special populations we serve here, our pa-

tients and wounded warriors. So when I got the phone call saying, 'Hey, we want to do a big event in order to show appreciation for the staff here,' that was an easy yes.

"What makes the magic possible for our patients, including recovering wounded warriors and newborn babies, is the outstanding staff we have here," Kass added.

Rear Adm. (Dr.) Alton L. Stocks, WRNMMC commander, added, "This is about you," in talking to staff members at the festivities. "Thank you for what you do every day – healing our warriors and their families – the most deserving population in the world." He then thanked Sinise for his support of wounded warriors, veterans, first responders and their families, saying, "He does this because he wants to, not because he has to or gets paid to do. He gives of himself to all of us."

Sinise also thanked wounded warriors, the Walter Reed Bethesda staff and their families. "It's a privilege for us to be able to come and have some fun with you today and show our appreciation and gratitude for what you do for our country. I've been looking forward to this for a long time – to come and pump everybody up and have a good time."

After serving up hot dogs and hamburgers to staff, Irvine agreed, "It's an honor to work for all the wounded warriors and caregivers at [Walter Reed Bethesda]."

Then, an honor guard of FDNY firefighters rolled in on a wooden dolly, the steel from the World Trade Center tower to turn over to the Nation's Medical Center.

As the firefighters turned over the steel to Walter Reed Bethesda, Stocks said firefighters and military members "share a legacy of honor, duty and sacrifice."

Retired Battalion Chief

John Dillon, FDNY, said each of the firefighters from New York City who come down to WRNMMC to visit wounded warriors, "represents millions and millions of Americans who would stand in line to be here to thank you for your service. We represent the United States of America."

"On Sept. 11, 2001, our country was attacked in New York City, Shanksville, Pa., and at the Pentagon. Many of our wounded warriors and service members, past and present, who are here today, took up the fight after those attacks. To honor their many sacrifices for our country, and the lives lost on that unforgettable day, the [FDNY] presents a sacred piece of World Trade Center steel to be displayed in a prominent place at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. This helps remind us that our sacrifices, those of our heroes who walked before us and those who will follow, are not in vain," Dillon said.

Stocks accepted the gift "with honor and pride. We will display this at our America Building, where everyone coming in for rehabilitation will be able to see, touch and honor it."

The Lt. Dan Band then took to the stage, playing a two hour set covering songs from classics by The Andrews Sisters, Stevie Wonder and The Police, to contemporary tunes from Kelly Clarkson, Katy Perry, Beyonce, Bruce Springsteen and more.

Liesl Juarez, a military spouse, brought her family out to enjoy the festivities. She watched with a smile as her son, Glenn, 11, negotiated his way up a wall climb at the event. "We came out to support the military and staff, and also to enjoy all the fun festivities," she said.



Photo by Bernard S. Little

A skydiver with the flags of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, lands on Naval Support Activity Bethesda (NSAB) during Staff Appreciation Day festivities at Walter Reed Bethesda on Friday.



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nathan Parde

NSAB Commanding Officer Capt. Frederick Kass flips a burger under the watchful eye of celebrity chef Robert Irvine, center, Friday.

Commander's Column

Memorial Day bears a special meaning to many of us at the Nation's Medical Center. For a number of years, we've been on the receiving end of those clinging to life and many of us have served alongside those who've paid the ultimate sacrifice, but their legacies will live on in our hearts and minds forever.

These brave men and women, patriots, protecting freedom around the world, laid down their lives so many of us could live free from the grips of tyranny. Our noble service members are no longer seated at the table with their loved ones, but their dedication, commitment and most importantly valor, is most worthy of being honored on this great day.

As you fly our Nation's great flag or visit our Nation's cemeteries to honor our fallen, I invite you to take a moment to reflect upon the sacrifices that have been made.

Memorial Day also represents the unofficial beginning of summer. As many of us celebrate this occasion with family gatherings, parades and barbeques, I ask that you put safety first and consider the "101 Critical Days of Summer," the time between Memorial Day and Labor Day. During this time we often witness an increase in accidents due to an increase in outdoor activities and travel.

Each year, prior to Memorial Day, our command offers a number of Safety briefing sessions. I know many of you attended one of yesterday's



sessions that were full of important tips to help us navigate safely through the summer. If you would like additional tips, or wish to share these tips with friends or family members, please visit our Safety Department's home page that can be found on our command intranet under additional links.

I will share with you a few helpful tips that you should

bear in mind throughout the year. For example, if you're driving long distance, take breaks, get plenty of rest, and switch drivers frequently to ensure no one is tired behind the wheel. If you're enjoying festivities by the water, make sure that you have the proper safety equipment, and never dive into shallow waters, or waters of unknown depth. If you're cooking on the grill, check your gas tank hose for leaks, especially if it's the first time you're using the grill this year. Always use sunscreen, and if you're going to drink, please do so responsibly.

Enjoy this extended weekend. Be safe, have fun, and remember to pause for a moment to salute and remember those who gave their lives in service to this country. Please know that your dedication and commitment to our Nation's service members and their families is always appreciated - What You do matters!

**Commander sends
Rear Adm. Alton L. Stocks
MC, USN
Walter Reed National
Military Medical Center**

Bethesda Notebook

Stages of Healing

Walter Reed Bethesda's Stages of Healing hosts Dance Exchange, Movement and Meaning workshop, tomorrow at noon in Memorial Auditorium. Everyone is invited to attend the free event, which promotes conscious moving and critical thinking. For more information, call Dr. Micah Sickel at 301-295-2492.

Arsenic: King of Poisons

The National Museum of Health and Medicine hosts the free program, "King of Poisons: A History of Arsenic," a presentation by John Parascandola, Ph.D., on Tuesday from 6 to 7 p.m. in the Silver Spring Civic Building, Fenton Room at 1 Veterans Place in Silver Spring, Md. In real life and fiction, arsenic has long held a place as an instrument of murder and suicide. Arsenic had many other surprising applications in the past, from wallpaper and paint to cosmetics and candy, often resulting in accidental poisoning. Parascandola will examine this phenomenon during his presentation. For more information, call 301-319-3303 or email medicalmuseum@amedd.army.mil.

Spring Commuter Fair

Naval Support Activity Bethesda will host a Spring Commuter Fair in Building 9 on Wednesday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The fair will be held between the Building 9 escalators and The Wedge and will feature Metro, van pool operators, the Department of Defense transit benefit office and more. Come out to investigate new ways to get to work and speak with transit providers in your area.

Ask Your Leadership

Ask Your Leadership is a staff communication tool for you to view and post questions and comments for official responses from the Walter Reed Bethesda (WRB) command leadership. The tool is on the WRB Intranet page, click on the Town Hall/Leadership Forum icon, and then click on Ask Your Leadership.

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NMPDC Welcomes New Commanding Officer

By Jeremy K. Johnson
NSAB Public Affairs
staff writer

Navy Medicine Professional Development Center (NMPDC) welcomed Capt. Carey Sill as its new commanding officer in a change of command ceremony held at Memorial Auditorium last Friday.

Sill steps in for Capt. Lee Cornforth, who took command of NMPDC in April of 2011.

The center's daily operations include more than 2,500 students, 1,800 staff members, and 40 enlisted technical schools in more than 65 medical courses of instruction provided at more than 18 locations across the United States.

During his tour, Cornforth was responsible for guiding NMPDC through several command reorganizations and is credited by the Navy Medicine Education and Training Command with leading "the most complex transformation of enlisted medical training in Department of Defense history."

Guest speaker and Deputy

Surgeon General of the Navy Rear Adm. Michael Mittelman lauded these and other accomplishments as signs of Cornforth's personality. "Lee Cornforth's character and reputation have been defined by his dedication to others, especially his family and friends, those exchange students Lee and [his wife] Becky have taken into their home from other nations, his level headedness, quick wit, and his embodiment of the Navy's core values of honor, courage and commitment over his 27 years of active duty service."

Mittelman then welcomed Sill by expressing confidence in her abilities to handle the role. "With a service reputation that precedes her as a magnanimous people person with a sense of humor, her tour as executive officer at Naval Hospital Naples and more recently as head detailer at Navy Personnel Command, Carey is the perfect officer to succeed Lee," said Mittelman. "Her well honed leadership skills combined with her detailed knowledge of Navy Medicine's personal development programs positions her not

only to take this command to new heights but shape the future of Navy Medicine. Carey, you have big shoes to fill, but Vice Adm. Nathan and I are confident you're both ready and able to take on this challenge."

Capt. Sill introduced herself by sharing part of her vision as the incoming commanding officer. "I want to share with you one of my favorite quotes and really, words to live by. Captain Sully Sullenberger, the pilot who heroically landed the US Airways jet on the Hudson River four years ago, said afterward that 'I have spent many years making big deposits into the bank of experience so that when the day came and I needed it, I could make a very large withdrawal.' To me, that is what the Navy Medicine Professional Development Center is all about," she explained, "providing opportunity and making big deposits in the bank of experience for our men and women in military medicine to build upon so when they need to make their own withdrawal, they can do so with confidence and skill."



Photo by Jeremy K. Johnson

Capt. Carey Sill (left) relieves Capt. Lee Cornforth (right) as commanding officer, Navy Medicine Professional Development Center, at a ceremony held in Memorial Auditorium at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center last Friday. Commander, Navy Medicine Education and Training Capt. Gail Hathaway looks on.

Before wrapping up, the event transitioned from a change of command to a retirement for Cornforth, recognizing his nearly three

decades of service, as well as the sacrifices made by his family during that time.

Navy Nurse Corps Celebrates 105th Birthday

By David A. Dickinson
WRNMMC Journal
staff writer

On May 13, Nurses Week 2013 concluded at Walter Reed Bethesda with the 105th birthday celebration of the Navy Nurse Corps. During the festivities, Rear Adm. Elizabeth Niemyer, deputy chief, Wounded, Ill, and Injured, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, and the 23rd director of the Navy Nurse Corps, discussed the legacy of Navy nursing.

"I want to take this opportunity to personally say thank you to all the nurses who make up the Navy's nursing team – active and reserve component nurses, as well as our federal civilian and contract nurse peers," said Niemyer. "You are the reason the Navy Nurse Corps has enjoyed 105 years of exceptional clinical leadership in sup-



Photo by Sarah Marshall

Intensive Care Unit nurses Ms. Edith Ameagwali and Navy Lt. Brian Wilson ensure optimum care for patient Jackie Thompson.

port of Navy medicine. Without the entire team working together, we could not have met the operation-

al and health benefit mission requirements asked of our corps."

In 1908, Congress au-

thorized the establishment of a female Nurse Corps within the United States Navy after several years

of advocacy by the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery. Prior to the establishment of the nurse corps, women had been working unofficially as nurses aboard Navy ships and inside Navy hospitals for nearly 100 years. The charter group of women to formally serve as members of the Navy nursing team, came to be called "The Sacred Twenty." They were assigned to the Naval Medical School Hospital in Washington, D.C.

"Since the days of The Sacred Twenty, the Navy nursing team has served with honor, courage and commitment," Niemyer said. "Navy nurses are key members of the global health care network of 63,000 Navy medical personnel around the world involved in the provision of the highest quality

See **NURSE** page 8

Physicians Earn Annual Research Awards

By Bernard S. Little
WRNMMC Journal
staff writer

Six physicians at Walter Reed Bethesda recently earned top research awards for their work to improve patient care.

Navy Cmdr. Kevin O'Meara, Air Force Maj. Candace Percival, Army Maj. Micah Hill, Army Capt. Ashleigh Pavey, Army Capt. Elizabeth Polfer, and Army Capt. Ryan Walk earned awards in the Bailey K. Ashford (BKA) and Robert A. Phillips (RAP) research competitions. They presented their works during a Research and Innovation Week symposium on April 19 at Walter Reed Bethesda.

The BKA Clinical Research Award was established through the efforts of Col. Marcel E. Conrad, the first chief of Clinical Investigation at the former Walter Reed Army Medical Center. The award is named in honor of the Army physician whose research is credited



U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Lara R. Bollinger

Then Lt. Cmdr. Kevin O'Meara, a pediatric physician from Joint Special Operations Task Force Philippines, feels the parotid glands of a child with mumps during a medical civic action program during Exercise Balikatan 2009 in Limpapa, Zamboanga. Balikatan means "Shoulder to Shoulder," an annual exercise for the Armed Forces of the Philippines supported by the U.S. Military.

ited with helping to solve the problem of hookworm-induced anemia in Puerto Rico during the early 1900s.

The Department of Clinical Investigation added the laboratory component to the BKA Research Awards

in 1996. The awards are intended to promote a lifelong commitment to advancing military health care, ac-

cording to officials in the Department of Research Program at Walter Reed Bethesda.

The RAP Award is a self-nominated award recognizing research excellence from all researchers (both military and Department of Defense civilians) at the resident and staff/fellow level for work on an approved research project. The award is named for the Navy officer and researcher noted for his work to help cholera victims, establishing Navy Medical Research Units globally, and developing an oral lavage process described by medical caregivers as a highly effective glucose-based treatment which has saved millions of lives annually.

O'Meara, a pediatric gastroenterology and nutrition fellow, earned the RAP laboratory fellow/staff award. "I have done basic lab research to understand the immune system and regen-

See RESEARCH page 5

Award-winning Case Reports Highlight WRNMMC Innovation

By Sharon Renee Taylor
WRNMMC Journal
staff writer

Diabetes Mellitus and a new, audiological treatment for Schizoaffective Disorder topped the subjects presented in a medical case report poster competition honoring research and innovation during a weeklong celebration at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC), recently.

The medical case report posters covered a diversity of topics, such as chiropractic techniques, induced coma, and white blood cell scans.

"Competitors were from all reaches of the command and included nurses, trainees, therapists, audiologists, speech pathologists, therapists and many other professionals," explained Col. (Dr.) Michael R. Nelson, deputy commander for education, training and research. "This highly successful poster competition highlights the breadth of commitment to advancing

patient care at WRNMMC and throughout the military healthcare system."

The purpose of the competition is to report interesting clinical findings, to give young investigators a chance to present, as well as, "highlight, support and celebrate the extraordinary case work and research being conducted at WRNMMC," according to Deb Murphy, academic research education coordinator with the Department of Research Programs, who organized the contest and five others held during the research-focused event.

Hosted at the medical center for nearly 15 years, the case report poster competition also provides a forum for investigators whose work may not otherwise be seen, she explained. The group of contest competitors consisted of interns, residents, fellows, and WRNMMC staff members with interests in academic

See REPORTS page 8



Photo by Sharon Renee Taylor

Research and research poster award winners are honored during research and innovation week at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. Honorees include (left to right) Maj. Candace Percival, Capt. Ryan Walk, Maj. Christopher Tracy, Lt. Michelle Cox, Capt. Bryant Webber, Capt. Elizabeth Polfer, Maj. Micah Hill (back row) and Dr. Evie Ortiz.

RESEARCH

Continued from 4

eration of cells in the intestines when they are affected by Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IBD). I hope that as we better understand the beginnings of IBD and how it progresses, we might be able to abort the process in high risk individuals, or modify the disease to be less severe," he explained.

Percival, a pediatric endocrinologist, earned the RAP clinical fellow/staff award. "I explored the relationship between hormones that are known to affect appetite - leptin and adiponectin - both in overweight and normal weight adolescents, and evaluated how they correlated with allergy signaling pathways and vitamin D. We learned there are important correlations between the allergy pathways of adolescents who have changes in their appetite hormones in the face of obesity and that these seem to be strongly related to vitamin D deficiency.

"We are hoping that this project, and follow-on projects, may help to further [illuminate] these important relationships to help improve our understanding and treatment options for patients," Percival explained.

Polfer, an orthopaedic surgery research fellow, earned the RAP laboratory resident award for developing a model for heterotopic ossification (HO), a formation of mature lamellar bone in non-osseous (bone) material such as muscle. "There have been two large studies out of this institution looking at the prevalence of HO in our combat wounded which demonstrated a prevalence of about 65 percent among amputees and extremity trauma. HO can result in symptoms of pain, ulceration, regression with physical therapy, decreased range of motion and neurovascular entrapment.

"Currently, there are no feasible means for primary prophylaxis [treatment] and if the patients do not respond to non-operative therapy (adjustment of ac-

tivity, pain medications, prosthetics, sockets), then the only treatment option left is surgical excision," Polfer explained.

"The purpose of this research is to develop a model, similar in injury to what our combat wounded experience so we can then use the model to test traditional and new means of primary prophylaxis as well as other treatment options. Ultimately, we want to decrease the disease burden of HO on our wounded warriors."

Pavey, a second-year pediatric resident physician, earned the RAP clinical resident award for her research into the risk of adverse birth outcomes in infants born into families with a history of intimate partner violence or domestic abuse. "I found that infants born in families with violence are at increased risk for adverse health outcomes. If we, as medical providers, can identify these families early, we can improve the health outcomes of our military children."

A general surgery chief resident, Walk earned the BKA laboratory award. "I was involved in studying the [use] of a new device known as 'non-thermal' or 'cold' plasma for cancer treatment," he explained. "Basically, this device combines electricity with helium gas to create a compound that can kill cancer cells." The physician said he used the device to study its ability in treating neuroblastoma, "a common and deadly childhood cancer."

"As it turned out, cold plasma was quite effective in our model," Walk added. "It will take quite a bit of work and time to transition from using this technology [in the lab] to treating cancers in children," Walk said. "Nonetheless, we are hopeful that this might offer a way to effectively treat a cancer that often carries a poor prognosis when treated with the current standard therapies."

Hill, assistant professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Uniformed Services University and clinical fellow in Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertil-

ity at Walter Reed Bethesda, earned the BKA clinical award. "We performed a review of seven years of a very unique protocol called 'GnRH antagonist rescue' which we developed for IVF (in vitro fertilization) patients. The protocol helps reduce patient's risk of having a cancelled IVF cycle or developing ovarian hyper stimulation syndrome," the physician explained.

"Our research answered numerous key clinical questions about the protocol and most importantly, demonstrated that it results in excellent live birth rates for IVF in patients at very high risk of ovarian hyper stimulation," Hill added. "This research resulted in several changes to our medical practices which have further reduced the risk of ovarian hyper stimulation syndrome in our patients."

The award-winning physicians received a commemorative coin and a cash award of \$500 for their research efforts. Winners of the RAP competition move on to the Navy-wide research competition held annually in May.



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Service Members Experience College Education Fair

By Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Brandon Williams-Church
NSAB Public Affairs staff writer

In today's job market, employers place high value on an applicant with a college degree. With the 21st century arguably being the toughest to attain and maintain a job, having a higher education is priceless. To help military members answer questions about receiving that higher education, on May 16, "The College Education Fair" was held in the Building 17 Atrium.

Director of Navy College Bethesda Elizabeth Baker organized the event, which brought several colleges and universities on base. "Every year, we invite Navy college distance learning schools and area college and universities to give service members the opportunity to meet with schools they don't normally have the opportunity to meet with," said Baker.

"We have the 'Distance Partnership Program' which sets up rate-related degrees for Navy personnel. Say you were a cryptologic technician (CT) and you wanted to upgrade your SMART transcript, you would go onto the Navy College website, look up distance learning partnership schools, search for the CT rate and you would see the schools affiliated that have developed degrees that would maximize your SMART transcript. In addition, if you don't want to get a rate-related degree and want to go to school in the area, we have a great deal of schools that are happy to present their material to service members."

Many of the schools presented information to help service members continue with their education or obtain their first degree. American Military University (AMU), Colorado Technical University (CTU), National University, Oklahoma University and the University of Maryland University College were among the many colleges in attendance.

Many of the schools at the fair have developed special programs geared toward the military community.

CTU offers a special program geared towards helping wounded warriors take the next step in their education. Josie Alcaraz, director of military relations and director of

career with a UMUC DEGREE

- More than 60 years helping servicemembers and veterans meet their education goals
- Career-relevant undergraduate and graduate degree and certificate programs
- On-site and online classes offering convenience and flexibility
- More than 150 locations around the world
- Dedicated active-duty and veteran advising teams
- Military scholarships and financial aid
- Participation in the Yellow Ribbon (GI Education Enhancement) program

ry.umuc.edu

Aaliyah El-Amin, Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Coordinator for University of Maryland University College, discusses teaching plans with Army Capt. Alshonta Clemons, Uunitses States Army Element, WRNMMC Troop Command.

the CTU wounded warrior scholarship program, presented information about the wounded warrior scholarship program in which the university hands out 25 scholarships to wounded warriors and 25 scholarships to the spouses of wounded warriors. The scholarship covers tuition, fees, textbooks and offers a free laptop to the recipient.

"Our focus is to make sure that we continue to help as many military and military affiliate students as possible," said Alcaraz. "Every day we strive to maintain a close relationship, so that when we say we are military friendly, we can back that up. [Service members] have a done a lot for our country and this is our way of giving back to them through the different programs like the CTU wounded warrior scholarship."

Approximately 33 percent of the student population for CTU is military. The university offers a deployment policy, military tuition rates and waived book fees.

AMU also boasted about its special programs for military members.

"We are the number one provider of voluntary education in the military and we're 100 percent online delivery,"



Photos by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Brandon Williams-Church

Service members and civilian patrons listen to presentations from different colleges and universities at the College Education Fair, May 16.

said Craig Gillman, military outreach coordinator. "We have associates, bachelors and master's degrees. Our mission is to provide affordable education to the military and those in government and public service. For active duty military, we waive all fees and our cost of tuition is pegged to the military tuition reimbursement rate. On the associates and bachelor's level programs, all course materials are provided via a grant, so there is no cost out of pocket to the military. Many of the professors are former military so they understand what mili-

tary people go through on a day-to-day basis."

AMU offers open enrollment to civilians, flexibility of scheduling and one of the largest criminal justice programs in the country.

The education fair stressed the importance of getting the next level education to better yourself in and out of the military.

"If you look at the way the economy is going right now, with the layoff of jobs, they are requiring you to have more education," said Sgt. 1st Class Danielle L. Archer, troop command senior career counselor. "Before an asso-

ciate's degree was the good thing, but now they want you to have a bachelor's and then they want to see that you are looking towards your master's degree. As far as military goes, it helps with promotion and it helps develop the [service member] into a better leader [who is] more knowledgeable and well-rounded."

"Having a higher education is the most important thing," said Baker. "It's a service you do for yourself as a service member to get that education. It will be applied to all aspects of your life for now, your future and for your family's future."

Staff Appreciation Day



Photo by Bernard S. Little

Glenn Juarez, 11, climbs a rock wall during Staff Appreciation Day.



Photo by Bernard S. Little

Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band perform during Staff Appreciation Day at Walter Reed Bethesda.



Photo by Bernard S. Little

A little girl excitedly picks out what design she wants painted on her face.



Photo by Stuart Gelb

New York firefighters turn over a piece of the World Trade Center to be displayed at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. A special honor guard of service members from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines accepted the steel beam.



Photo by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Nathan Parde

Staff were treated to a cookout that included foods such as burgers, chicken sandwiches, pasta salad, baked beans and cake.

REPORTS

Continued from 4

medicine, or those seeking to fulfill academic or program requirements, according to Murphy. Some competitors devote up to a year preparing their case reports and posters.

Twelve finalists emerged from more than 52 entries submitted. A panel of four judges selected two winners after a 20-minute oral presentation from each finalist.

Navy Lt. (Dr.) Michele Cox won the intern/resident category for her case report poster, “Case Report of Type 1 Diabetes Mellitus in an Adolescent Female with a History of Neuroblastoma: Autoantibodies and Clinical Disease.”

Walter Reed Bethesda audiologist Evie Ortiz

won the fellow/staff category for her case report poster, “Audiology Use of Tinnitus Sound Generators to Target Homicidal and Suicidal Command Auditory Hallucinations in a patient with treatment resistant schizoaffective disorder.”

Ortiz’s poster detailed her innovative treatment of a wounded warrior with auditory hallucinations. After a traditional treatment regimen of medications, magnetic imaging and an inpatient stay did not work for the patient, who heard voices in her head, Ortiz said Army Capt. (Dr.) Rohul Amin, a psychiatry resident, asked the audiologist to treat the patient with a tinnitus sound generator, a device typically used to treat ringing in the ears.

“Only three other patients in the world have been treated this way,” Ortiz said, and those were in Japan. She reported the treatment, “extremely successful,” and explained the patient can now walk, read a book, take classes and

do normal day-to-day things she was unable to prior to the innovative approach used by her healthcare providers.

“Dr. Amin took a step out and decided to do something different,” Ortiz said. “We ended up being a great team working on this. Clearly there’s more to do. We are trying to expand on this and see other types of psychiatric patients.”

Teamwork was a recurring theme for winning entries this year, according to Nelson, who served as one of the four judges for the case report poster oral presentations.

“Our winning submissions were accomplished almost exclusively through interdisciplinary and/or inter-professional teams in a manner that is creating lasting partnerships and novel approaches to patient care,” he explained.

Rear Adm. (Dr.) Alton L. Stocks, WRNMMC commander, presented awards to Ortiz and Cox, along with nine additional winners in five other poster competitions including Robert A. Phillips, Bailey K. Ashford, Lean Six Sigma, Quality and Performance Improvement, and Evidence-Based Practice and Patient Safety competitions.

Nelson said he was extremely impressed by the breadth and quality of the submissions for the six competitions. “As a member of the WRNMMC healthcare team, I am proud to work among such gifted and dedicated colleagues who demonstrate how research, patient safety and quality improvement are an important part of our culture at WRNMMC.”

NURSE

Continued from 3

safe patient- and family-centered comprehensive and compassionate care to over 9.7 million eligible beneficiaries.”

In 1968, the first male Navy nurse, Lt. Clarence Cole, was commissioned in the Navy Nurse Corps.

Today, Navy nurses not only serve wounded warriors, their families and others at the Nation’s Medical Center, Walter Reed Bethesda, but are deployed globally, participating in humanitarian and combat support missions with fleet surgical teams, as flight nurses, aboard hospital ships and aircraft carriers, and with their battle buddies in Marine Corps and Army units, Niemyer explained.

“An integrated, highly-regarded team of professionals, Navy nurses are uniquely trained and qualified to lead the provision of exceptional health care in extremely diverse environments,” the director of the Navy Nurse Corps concluded.

Also during the celebration, Niemyer presented Walter Reed Bethesda Commander, Rear Adm. (Dr.) Alton Stocks, a citation, and pinned him as an honorary Navy nurse.

In a message to Navy Nurse Corps personnel celebrating their 105th birthday, Vice Adm. (Dr.) Matthew Nathan, U.S. Navy surgeon general and chief, U.S. Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery, stated, “Today, we honor the brilliant accomplishments, courage, and commitment of Navy Nurses who helped to set the bar high for military medicine around the world. Our nurses are published and renowned scientists, researchers, teachers, providers and clinicians. Their continued work and dedication have earned them a prominent place in the United States Navy.”

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Dedicated to those for whom every day is Memorial Day.



Walter Reed Bethesda, DOE Partner for Food Safety Training

Lt. Cmdr. Daron Patton
Preventive Medicine
Department

Service members from Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) shared their knowledge of food safety and sanitation, assisting the Department of Energy (DOE) Headquarters with Food Sanitation training on May 2.

The Walter Reed Bethesda team included environmental health/preventive medicine specialists, with more than 30 years of combined experience in food safety and sanitation. While the partnership provided DOE with necessary training and saved them costs, it also gave the Walter Reed Bethesda trainers additional practice educating students in food sanitation.

DOE Headquarters has multiple internal food service locations to serve DOE as well as other federal government staff in the Washington, D.C. region. DOE leadership requested training for their senior contracting staff responsible for managing facility logistics and oversight of the food service contracts for these locations, to ensure contracting and program management professionals had increased knowledge of food service



Photo by Bernard S. Little

Army Spec. Brianna Alleyne and Navy Petty Officer Alan Aaron adapted the training from the Food and Drug Administration Food Code and military food sanitation courses and recently assisted the Department of Energy Headquarters with food sanitation training.

professionals. It also gave the DOE professionals a broad idea of federal/local regulations on food service.

Lt. Cmdr. Ulda Perez, chief, Environmental Health Service at WRNMMC, led a team of two preventive medicine technicians in presenting a three-hour classroom session on food safety and sanitation, at the DOE. Navy Petty Officer Alan Aaron and Army Spec. Brianna Alleyne adapted the training from the Food and Drug Administration

(FDA) Food Code and military food sanitation courses. The enlisted instructors regularly serve as health inspectors for WRNMMC and the numerous National Capital Region military sites under its public health jurisdiction.

“The [DOE] students were engaged in the class,” Perez said. “They asked very interesting questions and provided diverse opinions. It is always entertaining to share experiences at all levels of knowledge and experience on food safety.”

Walter Reed Bethesda’s team presentation was well received and the instructors were able to translate

often complex microbiological processes into easily understood food safety principles, according to the WRNMMC environmental health/preventive medicine staff. Students asked engaging questions on food safety and sanitation.

The lecture was followed by a guided tour of DOE food facility kitchens, including areas of food receiving, storage, preparation and serving. DOE students accompanied WRNMMC instructors through food facilities and were able to ask on-the-spot questions about food protection, time and temperature risks, and pest control.

“This was a great training opportunity to work with DOE. As a Sailor and Corpsman, it was also great to work with our in-house Army counterpart in presenting the class,” Aaron noted. “All Department of Defense branches are currently training for a joint food regulation coming out later this year that’s based on the FDA’s Food Code. Teaching Food Code to DOE helped improve our instructors’ knowledge of that source regulation and our ability to get up and teach in various settings.”

“The students were very attentive and gave lots of feedback on food safety problems they had seen in the past,” Alleyne added. “It was a great interactive experience for us as instructors.”

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Civilian Employees Elect Representative to the BOD

By David A. Dickinson
WRNMMC Journal staff writer

Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) Commander, Rear Adm. (Dr.) Alton L. Stocks announced on May 9, David Rohrbaugh, a pharmacist, was elected among the nine candidates seeking to be the next civilian representative to the Board of Deputy Commanders.

Rohrbaugh will provide the civilian perspective to senior leadership represented at the board level, as well as coordinate the civilian of the quarter and civilian of the year award process. He will also ensure issues affecting civilians are brought before the BOD and addressed. He succeeds Cat DeBinder, who served as the civilian representative on the BOD for the past four years.

The civilian representative to the BOD was created from a suggestion made during an Admiral’s Call in 2000. Rear Adm. Kathleen L. Martin, then the commander of the for-

mer National Naval Medical Center, “felt the voice of our civilians should be heard by the board,” DeBinder explained.

Civilians are a vital component to the successful operation of WRNMMC, DeBinder explained. She explained the civilian representative to the BOD “is the voice of all the civilians [at Walter Reed Bethesda], and also the voice of the board to the civilians. [Serving on the BOD] has been the most gratifying experience in my 35 years working at Bethesda,” she added.

Rohrbaugh expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to serve as a liaison, between civilians and command leadership.

“I decided to run because I was confident that I could make a difference and be both constructive and effective,” Rohrbaugh said. “I will do my very best to represent the interests of civilians by assuring that everyone’s input and contributions are considered and valued during board deliberations.”



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